

Atazanavir

at-a-za-NA-veer

Brand Name: Reyataz



Atazanavir, also known as Reyataz, is a type of antiretroviral medicine called a protease inhibitor (PI). These medicines block protease, a protein that HIV needs to make more copies of itself.

HIV/AIDS-Related Uses

Atazanavir was approved by the FDA on June 20, 2003 for use with other antiretrovirals in the treatment of HIV infection. This medicine does not cure or prevent HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing the virus to other people.

Most PIs cause an increase in a patient's blood lipid levels. In clinical trials, patients taking atazanavir have not experienced an increase in lipid levels.

HIV can become resistant to anti-HIV drugs over time. When patients develop resistance to a drug in a certain class (for example, PIs), they often become resistant to many or all of the drugs in that class. However, patients taking atazanavir as part of their first anti-HIV drug regimen may still be able to take other PIs, even if they develop resistance to atazanavir.

Dosage Information

Atazanavir comes in capsule form and is taken once a day with food.

Recommended Daily Dose

The recommended dose of atazanavir is 400 mg (two 200 mg capsules) once a day. The dose of atazanavir should be adjusted when atazanavir is given with certain other anti-HIV medications. For patients with decreased liver function, the recommended dose is 300 mg once a day.

Some patients may benefit from different doses of atazanavir. Patients should always take atazanavir as prescribed by their doctors.

Contraindications

Individuals should tell a doctor about any medical problems before taking this medicine.

Possible Side Effects

Along with its desired effects, atazanavir may cause some unwanted effects. Serious side effects of this medicine include yellowing of the eyes or skin, change in heart rhythm, diabetes and high blood sugar, diarrhea, infection, nausea, and blood in the urine. Individuals taking this medicine should tell a doctor if they develop symptoms of any of these side effects.

Other side effects may not be serious and may lessen or disappear with continued use of the medicine. Less serious side effects of this medicine include headache; rash; stomach pain; vomiting; depression; increased cough; trouble sleeping; tiredness; back pain; joint pain; and numbness, tingling, or burning of the hands or feet. Individuals should tell a doctor if these side effects continue or are bothersome.

Drug and Food Interactions

A doctor should be notified of any other medications being taken, including prescription, nonprescription (over-the-counter), or herbal medications.

Clinical Trials

For information on clinical trials that involve Atazanavir, visit the ClinicalTrials.gov web site at <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. In the Search box, enter: Atazanavir AND HIV Infections.

Manufacturer Information

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Manufacturer Information (cont.)

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For More Information

Contact your doctor or an AIDSinfo Health Information Specialist:

- Via Phone: 1-800-448-0440 Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 5:00 p.m. ET
- Via Live Help: http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live_help Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET